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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Executive Order 25 (2002)

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#### **ESTABLISHING THE VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMISSION**

By virtue of the authority vested in me under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Sections 2.2-103 and 2.2-134 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject always to my continuing and ultimate authority to act in such matters, I hereby create the Virginia Environmental Education Commission.

The Commission is classified as a gubernatorial advisory commission in accordance with Sections 2.2-134 and 2.2-2100 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The Commission shall have the responsibility to advise the Governor on all matters related to environmental education in the Commonwealth, pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia. Recognizing that environmental literacy and stewardship spring from knowledge and firsthand experiences in the outdoors, the Commission shall identify goals and strategies that promote meaningful environmental education throughout the Commonwealth.

The Commission's responsibilities shall include:

- Identifying and assessing needs and priorities for environmental education in the Commonwealth, and
- Reviewing Virginia's plan for environmental education and reporting on its implementation to the Governor and the Secretary of Natural Resources annually.

I hereby grant authority to the Secretary of Natural Resources to appoint members of the Commission. The Commission shall be comprised of not more than 30 members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall designate the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties only upon the approval of the Chief of Staff.

Such staff support as is necessary for the Commission's work during the term of its existence shall be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Quality. I hereby direct all executive branch agencies to assist in the work of the Commission upon the request of the Secretary of Natural Resources. An estimated 750 hours of staff support will be required to support the Commission.

Funding necessary to support the Commission's work will be provided from sources, including both private and taxpayers' money appropriated for purposes related to the work of the Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*. Direct expenditures for the Commission's work are estimated to be at \$7,000.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until June 26, 2003 unless amended or rescinded by a future executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2002.

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Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth